



Community Planning and Economic Development Department

News Release

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Minneapolis City Goals: A Safe Place to Call Home ▫ Jobs & Economic Vitality ▫ Eco-Focused ▫ Livable Communities, Healthy Lives ▫ Many People, One Minneapolis ▫ A City That Works

STEP-UP Youth Employment Program Hosts Annual Mock Job Interviews for 1,800 Minneapolis High School Youth, March 24-27 at Minneapolis Convention Center

Over 400 Twin Cities business professionals volunteer to prep 1,800 Minneapolis STEP-UP interns for their summer internship interviews with top local companies, government agencies, and nonprofits.

March 21, 2014 (Minneapolis) – Over 400 Twin Cities business professionals will descend on the Minneapolis Convention Center for four nights from March 24-27 for the annual STEP-UP youth employment program Mock Job Interviews, which match professionals one-on-one with 1,800 Minneapolis youth who are preparing for summer internships at top Twin Cities companies. The interviews will be held from 4:45 – 6:15 pm at the Minneapolis Convention Center, Meeting Room 200, 1301 Second Avenue South. Interviewers include Todd Klingel, President and CEO of the Minneapolis Regional Chamber of Commerce; Bryan Everett, Senior Vice President at Target; and other top business leaders from a wide variety of companies.

Founded in 2004, the City of Minneapolis STEP-UP program has created over 18,000 valuable workplace experiences for Minneapolis youth ages 14-21. Managed in partnership with AchieveMpls and the Minneapolis Workforce Centers, STEP-UP recruits, trains and places Minneapolis youth in jobs with a wide range of top Twin Cities businesses, nonprofits and public agencies, building a stronger future workforce for our knowledge-based regional economy. STEP-UP serves populations that face the greatest barriers to employment, particularly youth from low-income families, youth of color, and youth from recent immigrant families.

The Mock Job Interviews are a lively and engaging culmination of STEP-UP work-readiness training directed by AchieveMpls and certified by the Minneapolis Regional Chamber of Commerce. In a bustling Minneapolis Convention Center hall, business volunteers interview and coach each STEP-UP intern, modeling professionalism and providing candid feedback to help interns strengthen their skills and confidence. Each intern engages in one interview, and for many, this is their first professional interview or experience.

The 400-plus business volunteers will include over 50 employees from Accenture, over 50 employees from Wells Fargo, and representatives from a wide variety of other companies including Allianz Life, Best Buy, Bremer Bank, CenterPoint Energy, General Mills, Health Partners, Hennepin

County, Kraus-Anderson, Medtronic, Children's Museum of Minnesota, Nina Hale, Inc., Padilla Speer Beardsley, Piper Jaffray, Target and US Bank.

"By participating in our STEP-UP Mock Job Interviews, these business volunteers are investing in our region's collective future," said US Bank Chairman, President and CEO Richard Davis, who founded and co-chairs STEP-UP with former Minneapolis Mayor R.T. Rybak. "STEP-UP is now the country's top program for youth workforce development and has provided life-changing opportunities for thousands of young people. These amazing interns are courageous, enthusiastic, and ready to roll, and are the future of our workforce and our prosperity."

Learn more about STEP-UP from the City of Minneapolis' website:
www.minneapolismn.gov/cped/metp/cped_stepup.

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